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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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00/147,359 11/01/93

20 31 127/10/94

EXAMINER

26M1/1220

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

8

DATE MAILED:

12/20/94

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☒ This application has been examined ☐ Responsive to communication filed on _____ ☐ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), _____ days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892. | 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449. | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152. |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474. | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. ☒ Claims 1-18 are pending in the application.
Of the above, claims 15 are withdrawn from consideration.
2. ☐ Claims _____ have been cancelled.
3. ☐ Claims _____ are allowed.
4. ☒ Claims 1-14 and 16-18 are rejected.
5. ☐ Claims _____ are objected to.
6. ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
7. ☐ This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.
8. ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable; ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).
10. ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner; ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed _____, has been ☐ approved; ☐ disapproved (see explanation).
12. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received ☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.
13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
14. ☐ Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

Art Unit: 2603

1. The Applicants are requested to provide serial numbers of the copending application listed on page 11.

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 17, line 19, output data 106 is not found in Fig. 6; it is unknown if the circuit 58 depicted in Fig. 7 is the same as the controller 58 of Fig. 2. In addition, after page 46, the pages contain tables VIII-X are not numbered. Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claims 1-14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, the connection among the claimed elements is not clear. In addition, the reference to means for determining is not clear. Nothing is disclosed that corresponds to such means. It is also unknown if the parallel data is from the transmit memory means. Is the control signals of line 4 transmitted on the medium? The claim does not read on applicants' figures. Besides, "said memory means" (lines 16-17) lacks clear antecedent basis.

In claim 3, "said data" and "the status port activities" lack antecedent basis.

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In claim 4, the coupling between the claim elements is not clear. Unclear coupling also appears in claim 5-14, and 16-18. Moreover, it is unknown what is meant by "the status of interrupts" (line 3).

In claim 9, it is not clear if the data stations of line 4 are identical to the data stations recited in the preamble of claim 1. The reference to the first network data station and the second network data station is not clear. Perhaps applicants are suggesting the hubs 44, the nodes 42 or the devices in the hub circuitry 56. Moreover, lines 2-6 recite that the first network data station, the second network data station, and other data stations are coupled to the same transmission medium. Such a connection is not supported by the specification because the backbone transmission medium connecting the hubs is different from the medium connecting stations to a hub. It is not seen how claims 9 and 10 read on applicant's figures.

In claim 11, means for determining has no input.

In claim 16, "said series of communication periods" (lines 1-2) lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 16, "said first predetermined period" (lines 1-2) and "said second predetermined period" (lines 2-3) lack antecedent basis.

In claim 18, it is unknown how the apparatus of line 8 is connected to other elements such as the communications medium,

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the first and second network data station. The reference to the FIFO buffer (line 16) is not clear because nothing is disclosed that corresponds to the FIFO buffer connected to a data station. Besides, the receive memory has no output, and the transmit memory has no input.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamada et al. In USP No. 4,766,590 Hamada et al. disclose a transmission system including buffers 2120 and 2124 (receive and transmit memory), a receive data path and a transmit data path, a time slot controller 2122 (a processor for outputting control signals), and a receive data transfer controller (means for determining). The receive data path include a serial/parallel converter 2119 (a deserializer), and the transmit data path has a parallel/serial converter 2125. See Fig. 7 and col. 5, line 32, to col. 6, line 12.

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6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-5340.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.



C. Nguyen
(703) 308-5340
12/10/94



DOUGLAS W. OLMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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